

## AMENDMENTS

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 16 - 19, with the following amended paragraph:

A number of hybridization accelerants of unknown composition are available commercially (such as ~~ULTRAhyb~~ ULTRAHYB<sup>™</sup> and ~~HybSpeed~~ HYBSPEED<sup>™</sup>, Ambion, Austin, TX, USA); none are described as increasing simultaneously the rate of association and specificity of association.